



# Coalition of Black Employees of MLG & W's Workers

Organized April 1984

P.O. BOX 8414 • MEMPHIS, TN 38108 • (901)362-2264



William E. Thompson (Rick)  
PRESIDENT

Lee Gipson  
VICE PRESIDENT  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

Delinor Smith  
RECORDS

BOARD MEMBERS

James Craig  
John Jones  
Michael Jones  
Trent Ward

FOUNDER AND MENTOR

Robert Young  
Retired 1992

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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To: Tennessee State Representatives and Senators

March 6, 2000

From: William ( Rick ) Thompson, President ( C.O.B.E. )

Re : Public Records Act

99-00909

We recently became aware of actions by MLGW to amend the public records act. Although MLGW's attempt to change the statue was defeated, it has come to our attention that MLGW will make another attempt by changing their approach.

We have in recent months requested information from MLGW through the public records act. We have not yet received some of this information. Even with the law being so clear MLGW's management resist our request for information that is covered by this act. Memphis Light Gas and Water Division places astronomical charges on us to discourage us from requesting information covered by the public information act. **Only under the administration of Herman Morris, President and CEO of MLGW have this law ever been abused**

Our concern is that with the current law being so clear and MLGW not conforming to what it already requires we are afraid that any change in the statue will be abused and used to further shut us out from receiving public information.

In concluding, we would like to ask that whenever this issue comes before you, would you please contact us and allow us to come before the Shelby County delegation and all the State legislators to voice our concerns and objections.

Sincerely,  
*William E Thompson*  
William ( Rick ) Thompson  
President

POSTED  
4400

"Forever struggling for Civil Rights  
Human Rights and justice for all  
Mankind.

THE Coalition Website will online in a few days

**Together We Stand Strong!**

Membership Meetings are held on the 2nd Sunday of each month at : 3290 Getwell, Suite 211, at 4:00 p.m.

*In Loving Memory of Ms. Cornelia Crenshaw*



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CERTIFIED MAIL - Z 240 974 340

To: The Honorable Judge Bernice Donald  
167 N Main  
Memphis, Tn 38103

March 6, 2000

From: William ( Rick ) Thompson, President (C.O.B.E.)

**Re: Henry Nickell -Vs- Memphis Light Gas and Water Division**  
reimbursement of attorney fees

Our purpose as an organization is to look out for the interest and advancement of minorities, as a group.

It has come to the coalition's attention that Memphis Light Gas and Water is trying to recover attorney fees from employees who pursue justice through the courts and is unsuccessful in their attempt. **This action will set such a bad precedence that it will be devastating to blacks and other minorities as well as poor and low income persons**

At Memphis Light Gas and Water alone, this will discourage employees from seeking justice through the courts. This violates the spirit of the constitution.

It is beyond our wildest imagination why the administration of Herman Morris, the first black President and Ceo of MLGW and The President of the Memphis chapter NAACP would request this type of action to be done knowing the adverse impact this will have on blacks and the poor.

We are asking that you not allow Memphis Light Gas and Water to use the courts to set a precedence to perpetrate this painful hardship on any of the hard working employees of MLGW subjected to injustices, seeking remedies.

In closing I would like to quote the late Judge Higgingbottom in a letter he wrote Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, "You were born into

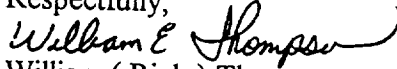
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injustice temper by the hard reality of what it means to be poor and black I trust that you will not forget that many who preceded you and many that follow you have found and will find the doors of equal opportunity slammed in their face through no fault of their own". So we are asking that you not allow the doors to be shut in our face, and the bridge of progress that carried you and the ones who fought and died before you as well as the ones coming after you be discouraged and denied the justice they so rightfully deserve.

Respectfully,



William ( Rick ) Thompson

President

"Forever struggling for Civil Rights  
Human Rights and justice for all  
Mankind"